

Rhode Island

Spring 2005

Ag-Review

RI. Ag-Review is a publication of the RIDEM/Division of Agriculture, 235 Promenade St. Prov., RI 02908, 401-222-2781

Chiefs Corner

By: Ken Ayars

Chief, RI Division of Agriculture

RI Agricultural Day is celebrated May 11th at the State House, and we again look forward to honoring the contributions that local farms and farmers provide to our economy, quality of life, open space, access to local foods and horticultural products. There is tremendous momentum in Rhode Island about the importance of local agriculture, and many promising and collaborative initiatives in support. Some highlights from the past year include:

The USDA five year Census of Agriculture figures were released (from the 2002 year). Rhode Island has 858 farms occupying over 61,000 acres. While those figures are down slightly from the 1997 Census, the amount of farm acreage in RI (despite intense development pressure) has remained fairly steady over the past 20 years, while there are substantially more farms than for example 30 years ago. This displays the trend in general toward smaller, more diversified operations that are typically horticultural and/or direct market fruits, vegetables and value added products. The average farm size in Rhode Island is 71 acres, compared to 102 acres in 1974. The figures also appear to reflect many new farm start ups, which have helped compensate for losses to development. Of the 61,000 total acres in farms, approximately one half is in production, the other half wood and wetland. Of 858 principal farm owners, one half list farming as their primary occupation, and close to one third of all farmers are women (42% greater than 1997). Two thirds of farms list crops as their primary production, one third livestock, and overall crop production accounts for 85% of all sales, animal production 15%. Two thirds of

agricultural income is from the green industry - nursery, greenhouse, turf.

What is especially telling is economic data and Rhode Island agriculture's ranking in some important national categories, specifically; second in per farm direct marketing sales (direct farm to consumer sales of fruits and vegetables via farmers markets, roadside stands), fourth in value of production per acre, and eighth in net farm income per acre. The economic value of Rhode Island agriculture is estimated at greater than 100 million dollars per year, and Rhode Island farms have the second lowest percentage of farm income from government subsidies in the country (7%, a positive figure which means that RI farms largely exist in the free market without subsidization). Another relevant figure is that farmland in RI is ranked first nationally in per acre real estate value, which shows the importance of both active land protection and economic viability programs to keep farmers on the land, and land available for agriculture.

There are a number of promising Rhode Island farm viability programs and initiatives, with strong support and participation by the public, farm community, agencies and non-profits; The five dairy farms comprising the Rhode Island Dairy Farms Cooperative began sales of Rhody Fresh milk to the public in July, 2004, and sales and public support to date have exceeded all expectations, with continued growth and expansion into additional product lines. Funding for this project was provided by the Division of Agriculture, Economic Development Corporation and RI Foundation (through the Rural Development Council). Efforts to develop and bring to market other locally produced farm products are ongoing, and include collaborative programs of the Division of Agriculture and farm organizations regarding RI raised, processed and/or

manufactured beef, poultry and eventually cheeses; DEM, Brown University Dining Services and the RI Foundation, as "Farm Fresh Rhode Island", have developed and now have online a website (www.locallygrownfood.com) to connect local farmers to institutional food services, restaurants etc; a collaboration of the RI Center for Agricultural Education (RICAPE), University of Rhode Island - Cooperative Extension, and Division of Agriculture has been awarded two grants in the past year by the USDA/Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education Program, to respectively initiate, develop and promote an Agri-tourism program in Rhode Island, and hire an extension agent at URI to work with small farm vegetable and fruit producers. The Agri-tourism initiative, named "RI Farmways", under the primary direction of Stu Nunnery, RICAPE Executive Director, recently conducted three well attended and received agri-tourism seminars, and there is great potential in developing and enhancing the connections in RI between the tourism industry, and our scenic farms, vistas and local products. The Economic Development Corporation and Small Business Administration are collaborating to offer low interest, small business loans to farmers to facilitate on site agri-tourism related improvements; the Division of Agriculture received USDA grant funds in 2004 to initiate a Senior Farmers Market Program in concert with the Department of Elderly Affairs, and has received funding to continue the program in 2005. This program provides low income Seniors with free coupons to redeem at farmers markets in RI. Seniors redeemed a rather astonishing 82% of coupons in 2004, promoting consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables and over \$212,000 in income to participating farmers. The Department of

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Kenneth D. Ayars, Chief
Stephen M. Volpe, Deputy Chief, Editor

Health operates a similar program to provide benefits to low income Women, Infants and Children at farmers markets, with close to \$200,000 in coupon redemptions in 2004; finally, the Agricultural Land Preservation Commission, USDA, Nature Conservancy, Champlin Foundation and municipal and private land trust continue the essential work of protecting farmland for future generations. The State of Rhode Island, through the Commission and with above mentioned partners, has now protected the development rights to 61 farms totaling 4,380 acres, with continued strong interest and many current applicants in negotiation.

There are many other promising programs, important partners, and increasing public and private recognition that local agriculture is and must remain an integral part of a healthy economy, food system and is one of the most essential components in RI to maintaining the right balance between open space and development. The struggles are ever present, however there is much to look back on, and forward to in Rhode Island.

Marketing Update

DEM/FARMERS MARKETS

2005.

By Pete Susi



The DEM/Division of Agriculture in partnership with the DEM/Division of Parks & Recreation will once again be sponsoring Farmers Market at the following state parks; Goddard

Park Farmers Market which is in its ninth year, Colt State Park Farmers Market in its sixth year, Fishermen's Memorial Park Farmers Market in its fourth year, and Haines Memorial Park Farmers Market in its third year. We are also planning to open a new farmers market in Providence this season, so stay tuned.

What all these markets have in common is they are all highly visible, very successful and have large customer bases. We believe this has created some highly profitable outlets for Rhode Island farmers who participate at the state farmers markets. It has also delivered numerous benefits to our states citizens in the forms of better diet choices and shopping experiences.

If you are considering participating in a farmers market and are still wondering if it is worth the time and effort (and we realize it does take time away from other farm chores) consider this; in 2004 the combined coupon redemptions for the WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition program was over four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00). This is just coupon sales! If you would like more information to participate in one or several of our state sponsored farmers market, please contact Pete Susi at 222-2781 ext. 4517 or by email at peter.susi@dem.ri.gov.

The 2005 season will see the addition of several new privately sponsored farmers markets throughout the State. For a listing of all farmers markets, go to our web-page at www.state.ri.us/dem/topics/agricult.htm and click on farmers markets or call our office at: 222-2781 ext. 1-4754 and request a free brochure.

The dates and times for the DEM Farmers Markets are:

**Goddard Park Farmers Market open
Fridays, May 6 - October 28,
Hours 9 am to 1 pm**

**Colt Park Farmers Market open
Fridays, May 6 – October 28,
Hours 2 pm to 6 pm**

**Fisherman's Memorial Park Farmers
Market open Sundays, May 1 –
October 30,
9 am to 1 pm**

**Haines Park Farmers Market open
Wednesdays, May 4 – October 26,
2 pm to 6 pm**

Attention Logo Users

Logo items are ready for the 2005 season. If you need bags, price cards, labels or tags call Pete Susi at 222-2781 x 4517 or at peter.susi@dem.ri.gov

DEM ANNOUNCES THAT 2004 SENIOR FARMERS' NUTRITION PROGRAM WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL

Program Expected to Continue in 2005 With USDA Funding

PROVIDENCE - The Department of Environmental Management announces, the Senior Farmers' Nutrition Program first introduced to Rhode Island senior citizens last year was highly successful and the Department has received federal grant funding to continue the program in the summer of 2005.

Last summer, 10,602 seniors within certain income limits were provided with \$20 worth of coupons that could be exchanged for fresh produce at farmers' markets and roadside stands throughout the state. The innovative program enabled participating seniors to obtain fresh, nutritious, locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs from about 20 farmers' markets operating in Rhode Island, including four farmers' markets located in state parks. DEM also coordinated a traveling farmers' market that visited senior centers to make it even easier for seniors to redeem their coupons.

"The nutrition program helped seniors and farmers alike," said Kenneth Ayars, Chief of DEM's Division of Agriculture. "It provided fresh and healthy produce for a large number of seniors, and a total of \$212,000 in agricultural sales for the 54 participating farmers. It also helped to establish good relations between many of our senior citizens and the state's farmers. We are looking forward to continuing the program this summer."

The Senior Farmers' Nutrition program is modeled after the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), which provides farmers' market coupons to low-income mothers and children in Rhode Island. DEM coordinates the seniors' program in conjunction with the RI Department of Elderly Affairs.

Last year, the state was awarded a \$198,551 grant from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement the program. This year's USDA grant is 10 percent less, but is not expected to significantly impact the program.

Call for Preproposals for Grants from Northeast SARE

The Northeast region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, which funds research and educational grants, is calling for pre-proposals for the next SARE funding cycle. A pre-proposal is a brief, one page summary of key project themes and results, and is part of the SARE grant selection process. Only those whose pre-proposal has been approved can go on to develop a full proposal.

Pre-proposals are submitted on line, and potential applicants can look at the preproposal format requirements by going to www.uvm.edu/~nesare and following the grants and application information link. Here you will find materials explaining the application process, SARE funding priorities, and a document called the Performance Target Workbook, which all potential applicants for these grant programs are encouraged to download and read. The deadline for the online submission or pre-proposals is May 31, 2005.

Northeast SARE also offers grants to farmers and to agricultural professionals who work directly with farmers. These grant programs do not require a pre-proposal. To learn more about the SARE program and the different grants offered, go to www.uvm.edu/~nesare, or call 802/656-0471.

PESTICIDE NEWS

Memorandum of Agreement Between EPA and Atrazine Registrants Concerning the Registration of Pesticide Products Containing Atrazine

EPA has determined that registrations pertaining to certain uses of Atrazine must be amended in order to ensure that atrazine does not present human and ecological risks that are inconsistent with the standard for registration in FIFRA and the requirements for tolerances under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). EPA believes that this agreement will substantially reduce the risks posed by the use of Atrazine by reducing the most significant exposures associated with Atrazine. As you may be aware, atrazine has been found in groundwater and surface water throughout the country and EPA is currently reassessing the use of Atropine. This is just

one of changes that are being proposed to further reduce the risks associated with use of Atrazine. The following is a brief narrative summary of the provisions of the agreement.

ALL PRODUCTS

Some of the products that will be affected by this agreement are AATREX 4L, BICEP Products, Lumax, Lexar, Expert currently manufactured by Syngenta. Other Chemical Companies that register Atrazine and will also have to comply with this agreement are Dow AgroSciences, Drexel Chemical Co, Simpco.

- All products must bear language that ensures that it will be compliant with the terms and conditions set forth in the January 31, 2003 Interim Registration Eligibility Decision. (IRED).
- All products must bear language that informs users that use in a prohibited area per the MOA is a violation of the label.
- All products (except products with less than 4% active ingredient) must bear language that informs users of their obligation to contact the Atrazine Watershed Management Information Center (AWMIC) to determine whether the use of this product is prohibited in your watershed prior to using the material.

PERSONAL PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

- Mixers, loaders, applicators, flaggers and other handlers applying liquids, wettable powders and Dry Soluble must wear long sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes, socks, chemical-resistant gloves and chemical resistant apron when mixing/loading, cleaning up spills, cleaning equipment or otherwise exposed to the concentrate.
- For products not in Dry Flowables & Water Dispersible granules, mixers loaders etc. must also wear additional chemical resistant clothing in addition to a NIOSH approved respirator when handling the concentrate.

ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

- Products must not be mixed or loaded or used within 50 feet of all wells, including abandoned wells, drainage wells and sink holes. Operations that involve mixing, loading rinsing or washing of this product into or from pesticide handling or application equipment or containers within 50 feet of any well are prohibited, unless conducted on an impervious pad constructed to withstand the weight of the heaviest load that may be positioned on or moved across the pad. In addition, such a pad must be designed & maintained to contain any product spill or equipment leaks.
- Product must not be mixed or loaded within 50 feet of intermittent streams and rivers natural or impounded lakes and reservoirs. Product must not be applied within 66 feet of points where field surface water runoff enters perennial or intermittent streams and rivers or within 200 feet of natural or impounded lakes and reservoirs.

In addition there are specific crop precautions and use restrictions.

All Chemical registrants who wish to maintain registrations on there products will be required to provide supplement labels and stickers incorporating the new requirements by November 15, 2004.

Therefore, applicators will be required to comply with the new restrictions on the label after that date.

If you have any questions regarding the status or use of Atrazine, please contact Liz Lopes-Duguay at 401-222-2781 x4510.

PESTICIDES SOLD ON THE INTERNET MUST BE REGISTERED

ALL pesticides sold in the United States must be registered. Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide & Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), products claiming to prevent, destroy or repel pests, including bacteria and viruses, are considered pesticides. This includes household and commercial products found in

nearly every home and business ranging from weed killers and insect repellents to home and hospital disinfectants to agricultural and industrial-use chemicals.

All EPA registered pesticide products must have an EPA registration number on the label, along with directions for use and safety precautions. EPA regulates pesticides sold in traditional retail, wholesale, and other business market places. Businesses that conduct their solicitations, transactions or other activities through media including mail, telephone orders and the internet, are also regulated under the same law. The law also prohibits distributors or sellers of pesticides from making false and misleading claims about their products.

The rapid growth of the internet includes hundreds of web sites that market pesticides. Its wide reach enables unscrupulous or unknowing vendors to sell and distribute to consumers unlawful pesticides that may be unsafe. EPA has been monitoring the internet and is commencing enforcement against companies for the unlawful sale of pesticides of public health concern. In the past year, EPA has taken several enforcement actions involving the sale of unregistered pesticides over the internet. Recent enforcement actions have included orders to stop the sale of certain products sold by 12 companies.

Each state, including Rhode Island, has its own laws regulating the sale, distribution and use of pesticides within that state. In Rhode Island, all pesticide products must be registered with the Division of Agriculture, including those products that do not make a public health claim and are classified as minimum risk by EPA and are exempt from the registration process. (e.g. garlic oil,).

For more information visit : www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/newsletters/civil/enfalert/index.html For information regarding which products are registered for sale and use in Rhode Island , visit www.state.ri.us/dem. Click on "Programs" , than "Agriculture" then scroll down and on the left hand side click on the "Kelly Registration" Link. Click on Pesticide Registration Search. You can search by Company name, EPA Reg. No. or by Product name.

If you have any questions regarding the status of a product please contact Elizabeth Lopes-Duguay, Sr. Environmental Scientist at 401-222-2781 x4510.

Join us For

Rhode Island AG-DAY

May 11th 2005
at the State House

For more information contact Ron
Newman at 222-2781 x4518 or at
ron.newman@dem.ri.gov

Plant Industry News

The Division of Agriculture would like to welcome Matthew Green,

the new Supervisor of Insect Pest and Plant Disease Control. Recently appointed to this post, he will be inspecting organic farm and handler operations, nursery stock dealers and nurseries. Now in his second year with Plant Industry, he had previously worked on the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey for exotic invasive plant pests and public outreach and on nursery stock inspection and certification. With a lifelong background in agricultural production, plant protection and consulting, to quote Matt "I look forward to continuing to promote the state's rich agricultural heritage through protection and advancement of our agricultural resources and industry."

The RI DEM Division of Agriculture is beginning its third year as an accredited USDA AMS National Organic Program crops and handler certifier. Currently there are twenty Rhode Island farming operations certified by the Division as organic crop producers according to the National Organic Program standards.

Nationally the organic market continues to grow at a healthy annual rate of 20%, with rapid expansion of organic agriculture expected to continue as consumer interest further gathers momentum and new organic production and marketing systems develop. Rhode Island is unique in its agricultural abundance and high density of population, and organic farming is a system that works well in the close interface between agriculture and densely populated areas by minimizing environmental impact and effecting good ecology. Organic farming can be both economically and environmentally beneficial

to the farmer and to the surrounding population since it avoids using synthetic substances, thereby protecting groundwater supplies and the surrounding landscape and population and providing Rhode Islanders with a fresh, local supply of healthy farm products.

Rhode Island Aquaculture News

Funds from the Rhode Island Aquaculture Initiative (RIAI) are now available to assist in the creation of freshwater aquaculture demonstration projects on existing commercial farms in Rhode Island. The program proposes that, with the aid of extension personnel and the expenditure of RIAI funds, RI farmer(s) set up an aquaculture operation, either independent of or in conjunction with their other farming operations. To be considered for one of these demonstration projects, you must have ownership or control of your farmed land for at least the next five years, and have an existing pond(s) with control of the pond's water source. Additional features such as greenhouse(s) and barn(s) are desirable. These demonstration projects, for example fee-fishing operations or food/ornamental fish production, will be used by cooperative extension personnel from participating university and governmental agencies to showcase the process of setting up such a business in the state. If your farm site is selected for funding for one of these projects, you must agree to allow the project to be used for pre-arranged educational tours and demonstrations to the public for a defined period of time.

Rhode Island Senator Jack Reed secured federal funding to promote Rhode Island's aquaculture industry. The 1.4 million dollars he provided, known as the Rhode Island Aquaculture Initiative (RIAI), is administered by the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council for distribution to various collaborative projects involving aquaculture within the state of Rhode Island. The RI aquaculture industry currently consists primarily of shellfish aquaculture in marine waters. The RIAI wishes to expand the industry to include small-scale freshwater fish aquaculture, especially if it can be done in association with existing farms. RIAI, along with RI DEM Agriculture Division and USDA – NRCS, want to provide assistance to local farmers interested in aquaculture.

If you would like consideration of your farm for an aquaculture demonstration project,

please contact Randy Mickley, Finfish Aquaculture Extension, University of Rhode Island, at 401-874-9384 (email: RMickley@uri.edu) or contact Dr. Dale Leavitt, Aquaculture Extension Specialist, Roger Williams University, 401-287-9442 (email: dleavitt@rwu.edu)

Coming Events

The New York and New England Junior Angus Associations will be hosting the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show at the Eastern States Exposition Center in West Springfield, Massachusetts on June 17th, 18th and 19th, 2005. The Eastern Regional is the largest regional junior beef cattle show in the country. This event will have approximately two hundred participants, three hundred head of Angus cattle and will require the associations to raise a minimum of \$40,000. This money will be used to provide meals for approximately 400 people, exhibitor gifts, a showmanship judge, awards, show ring decorations, and various other expenses.

Currently the associations are selling raffle tickets for a Riverrode Cattle working chute that will be raffled off at the Eastern Regional show. Other sources of funding included a donated side of beef and needlepoint embroidery that was donated by Rachel Breck. However, much more money remains to be raised and we are asking Angus breeders and associated businesses and organizations to lend a hand.

Donors will be recognized on our website, in the show program and on banners displayed inside the exposition center during the show. Sponsors of meals and gifts will receive additional recognition such as their name/logo printed on the gift and a meal-line sign recognizing meal sponsors.

Five classifications of donors have been established for those who give \$2,500 and above, \$1,000 to \$2,499 to \$500 to \$999, \$250 to \$499 and below \$250. Those donors will be recognized as stars, stripes, red, white and blue donors respectively.

The New York and New England Junior Angus Associations respectfully ask for your help in providing donations that will allow us to host the Eastern Regional show. If you would like to make a donation to the 2005 Eastern Regional Junior Angus show; please make your

check payable to "New England Junior Angus Association" and mail it to:

Kevin Bouthillette
122 Limerock Road
Smithfield, RI 02917

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call either Kevin Bouthillette
At (401) 232-2495, May Mort at (518) 392-3970 or Audra Jurgilowicz at (860) 868-3635.

RI Land - Link

For Sale

**21 ACRE FARM and BUSINESS
IN EXETER, RHODE ISLAND
Route 4 off Route 102. 20 MIN.
PROVIDENCE / NEWPORT**

House, 2,400 S.F., 4 Bdrms, 2
Baths. plus separate 3,200 S.F.
office /warehouse with septic and
parking, two artesian wells, 8,600
S.F. of chemical-free greenhouse
space, ponds and horse pastures.

Twelve-year old business grows
salad greens, herbs and tomatoes
year-round for Rhode Island
restaurants, farmers' markets and
home delivery by subscription.
Extremely loyal customer base.

Annual income \$60,000-70,000 \$15-
20,000 net

Great potential for family business,
small farming/horse boarding,
artisan enterprise, school/day care.

Asking \$1.2 million. For more
information, call 401.294.7834

Aquaculturist seeks farm ponds to
culture ornamental koi and possibly
other species, for commercial and edu-
cational purposes. Good agri-tourism
opportunity. Please contact:
Tom Paulhus 401-941-0714 or
tompaulhus@aol.com

As we go to Press

CARCIERI NAMES URI SCIENTIST MICHAEL SULLIVAN AS NEXT DEM DIRECTOR

**Dr. Sullivan is Professor of
Agronomy; Former State
Senator**

Governor Donald L. Carcieri today named Dr. W. Michael Sullivan, a Professor of Agronomy at the University of Rhode Island, as the next Director of the Department of Environmental Management (DEM). Professor Sullivan is a former State Senator from District 25 and is currently President of the Richmond Town Council.

"I'm very pleased to nominate Dr. Mike Sullivan as the next Director of the Department of Environmental Management," Governor Carcieri said. "DEM is one of the most important departments of state government. It oversees the health of our environment and the health of our citizens. The hundreds of dedicated employees at DEM work hard every day to preserve Rhode Island's tremendous quality of life."

"Working with DEM, my Administration has made some important strides in protecting Rhode Island's environment over the last two years," Carcieri continued. "Dr. Sullivan will help us build on those achievements."

"As a scientist, Dr. Sullivan has the technical background necessary to understand the challenges facing Rhode Island's environment today. As an experienced public servant, Dr. Sullivan understands the importance of Rhode Island's environment to our state's economic future. His service as a State Senator and Town Council President also provide Dr. Sullivan with invaluable insight into how public policy is formulated and implemented."

Sullivan thanked Governor Carcieri for nominating him. "I am honored that Governor Carcieri nominated me to this tremendously important post. I am anxious to engage in the

many critical programs that the Department operates, and am very much looking forward to serving Rhode Island citizens in the mission of protecting, preserving and enhancing our environment.”

A resident of Richmond, Sullivan grew up in North Attleboro, Massachusetts. He earned his Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Nebraska in 1981. He holds an M.S. in Agronomy from the University of Vermont, and a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Rhode Island.

Sullivan has taught at the University of Rhode Island since 1981. He has been a full Professor of Agronomy since 2000. The author of scores of articles in scientific journals, his research has focused on land-use management practices and their impact or potential impact on water quality.

Previously, Sullivan was an Assistant Instructor at the University of Nebraska from 1977 to 1981. Sullivan is a member of the American Society of Agronomy, the Soil Science Society of America, and the Crop Science Society of America.

Sullivan has a long history of public service. He served on the Richmond Town Council

from 1988-1992 and from 1998 to present. He has served as Town Council President since 1998. Sullivan also served as a State Senator from 1993 to 1997.

Sullivan has also served as Director of the Portuguese American Scholarship Foundation (1995 to 2002); Member of the Rhode Island Scenic Roadways Board (1992-present); Director of Borders Farm Preservation, Inc. (1998-present); Member of Rhode Island Community Farm (2003-present); Chair of the Rhode Island Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission (2004-present); and Member of the Rhode Island Conservation Commission (1983-2001).

Sullivan is married to Mary Cunningham Sullivan, an Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Rhode Island and a Researcher at the Infant Development Center at Women’s and Infant’s Hospital. They have three children: W. Matthew, Peter and Bridget.

**USDA Announces Crop Insurance
Deadline for RI Nursery.**

Rhode Island nursery producers should be aware that the final date for a new applicant to apply for insurance on nursery for 2005 is May 31, 2005, according to the Raleigh Regional

Office, USDA Risk Management Agency. New Applications for the crop year 2005 may be accepted until May 31, 2005 with the coverage beginning 30 days after receipt of your signed application. The premium for a new policy is prorated according to the month coverage begins. Applications accepted after May 31, 2005, will not begin coverage until October 1, 2005. For existing policies, coverage automatically attached on October 1, 2004. The insurance year runs from October 1 through September 30. Crop insurance provides protection for field-grown and containerized nursery plants against losses due to adverse weather conditions, fire, failure of irrigation water supply, wildlife and delay in marketability of plants resulting in reduced plant value. Insurance premium subsidies have been significantly increased in recent years, particularly at the higher levels of coverage. Producers are strongly urged to contact a local crop insurance agent as soon as possible for a premium quote and additional details. For a list of crop insurance in your area, contact the local USDA Farm Service Agency office or logon to the following Risk Management Agency web site: <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>



Rhode Island Department of Environmental
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Division of Agriculture
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